The location of Seleucia ad Belum, modern al-Salūkiyyah

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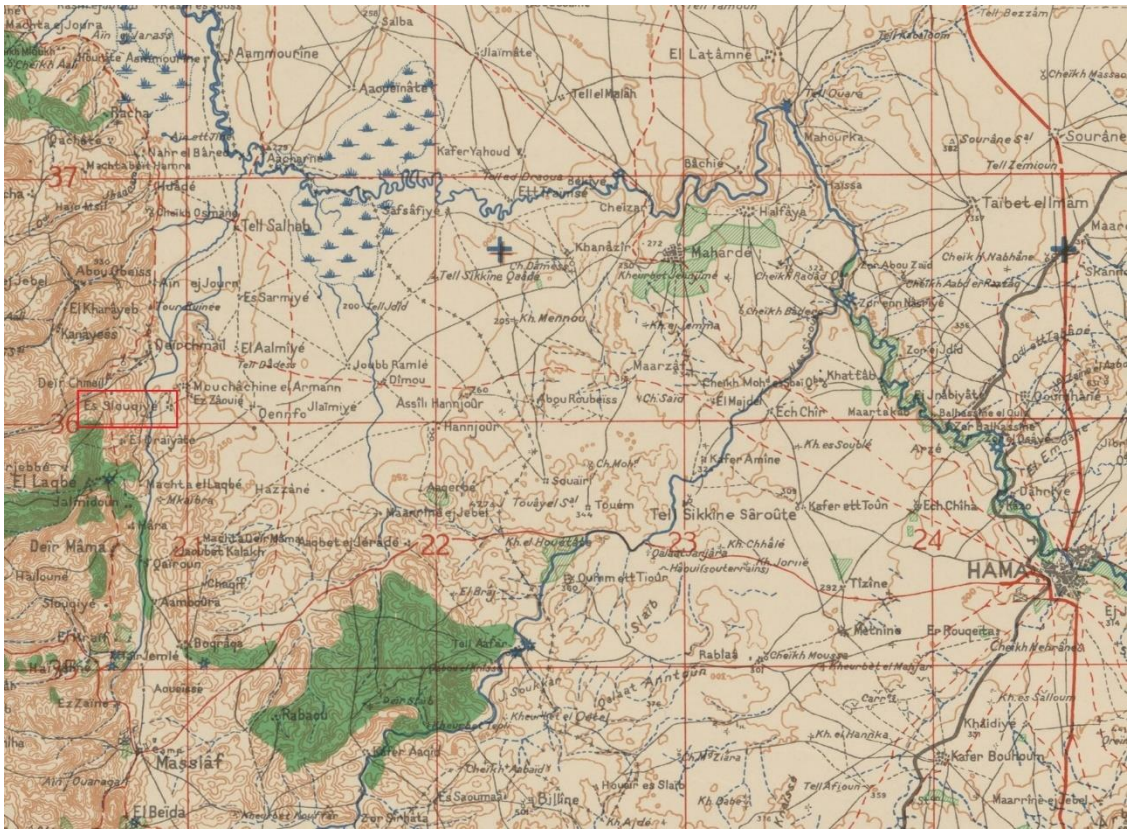
Seleucia ad Belum Σελεύκεια πρὸς Βήλῳ is the modern village of al-Salūkiyyah السلوكية situated at 35° 11' 50" N, 36° 21' 52" E, at the River of Qurayyat نهر القريات, which springs north west of Misyaf مصياف and flows into the Orontes near Asharneh العشارنة.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Abou Obeiss
Ain ej Journ
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Hannjour
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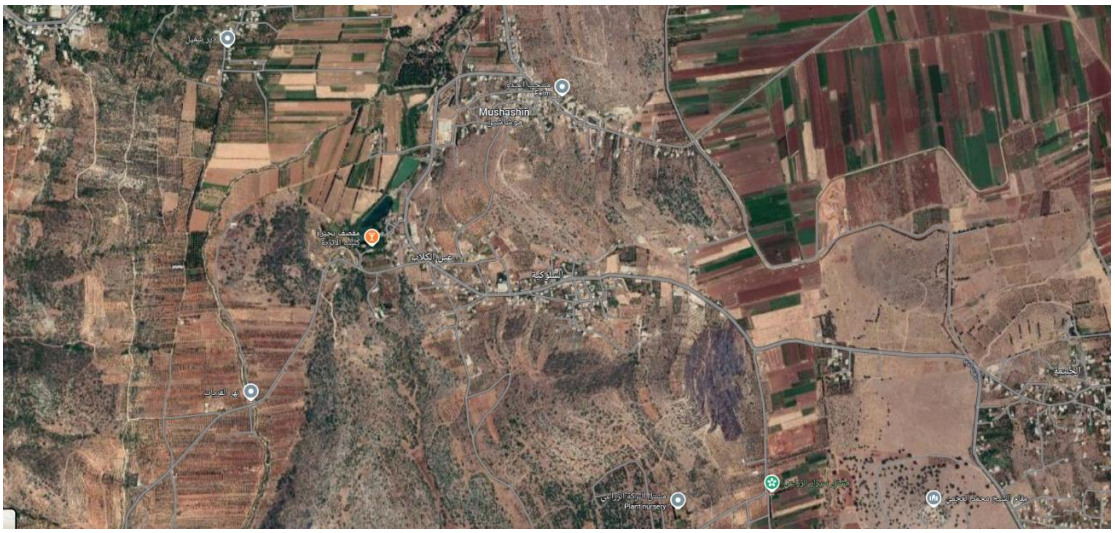


al-Salūkiyyah السلوكية, *Google Maps 2025*

The name al-Salūkiyyah corresponds to Seleucia Σελεύκεια.

Ptolemy (*Geography* 5.15.16) places Seleucia ad Belum in the following manner:

	69º 15'	**69º 20'**	**69º 30'**	**69º 35**	**69º 40'**
34º 55'			Seleucia		
34º 35'					Larissa
34º 25'				Epiphanea	
34º 15'	Raphaneae				
34º		Mariame			

Disregarding the longitudes aside, the sequence of the towns from south to north is correct except for Seleucia and Larissa:

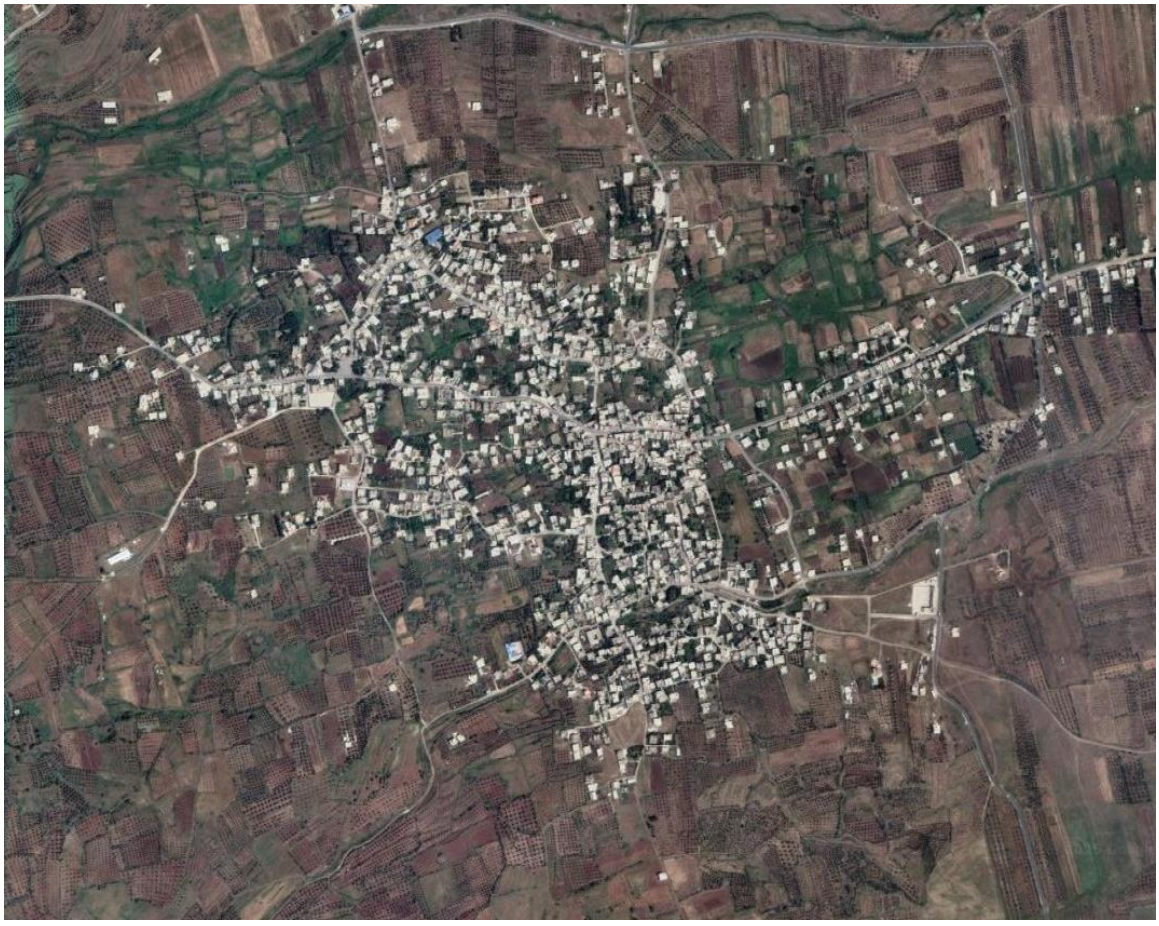
Seleucia
Larissa
Epiphanea
Raphaneae
Mariame

This error may be a scribal error. In this case, Seleucia and Larissa had originally the same latitudes, because in the text Seleucia precedes Larissa which means, according to the usage of Ptolemy, that either Seleucia is to the north of Larissa or both are on the same latitude. Since the Geography of Ptolemy contains many original non-scribal inaccuracies of latitudes and longitudes, this error in the position of Seleucia and Larissa does not refute that Seleucia is al-Salūkiyyah.

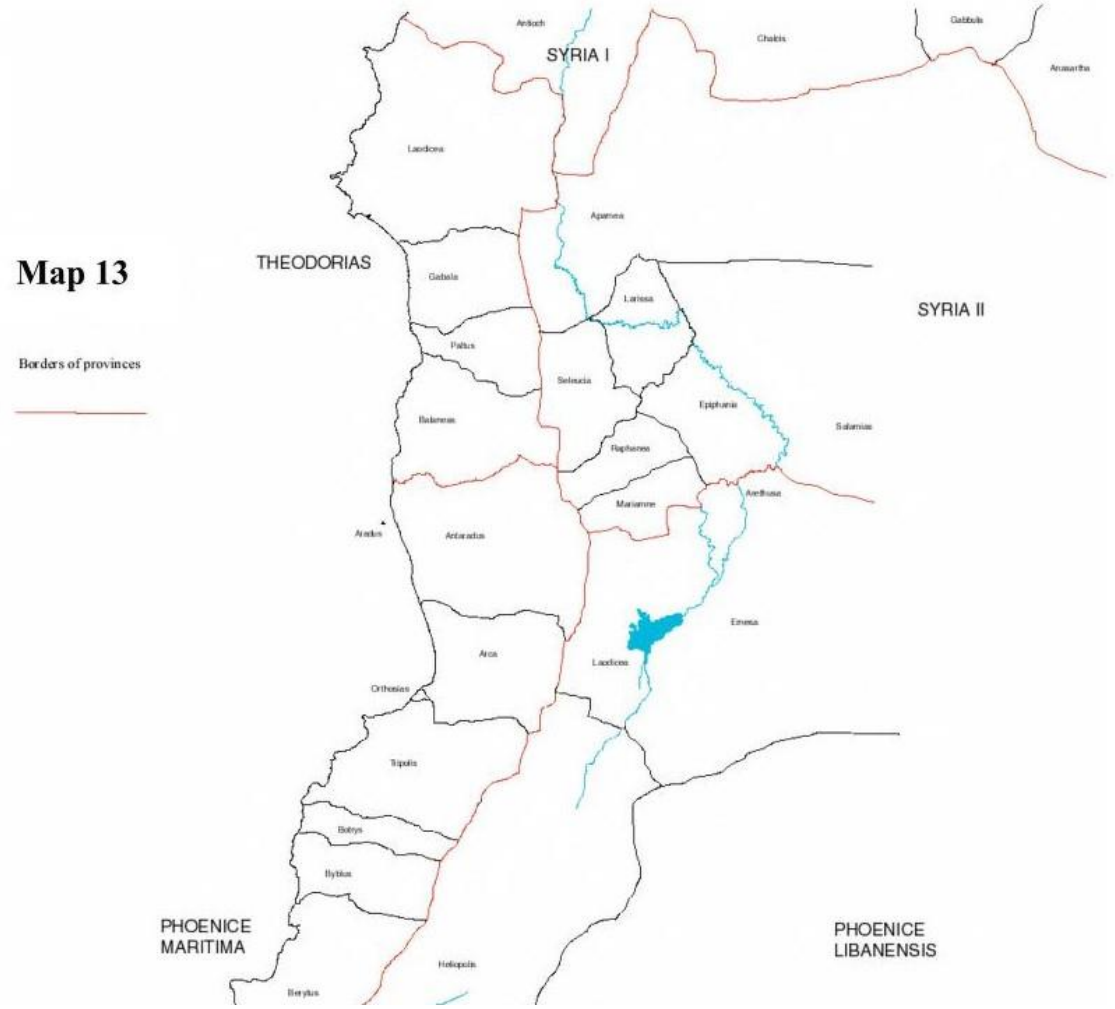
Furthermore, Seleucia was situated at the River Belus while al-Salūkiyyah is situated at the River of Qurayyat. Consequently, the River Belus is the River of Qurayyat.

A closer view at the satellite photos of al-Salūkiyyah does not reveal any traces of an ancient town.

But a closer view of the photos of Mariame, modern Maryamīn مریمین, does not reveal any such traces too.



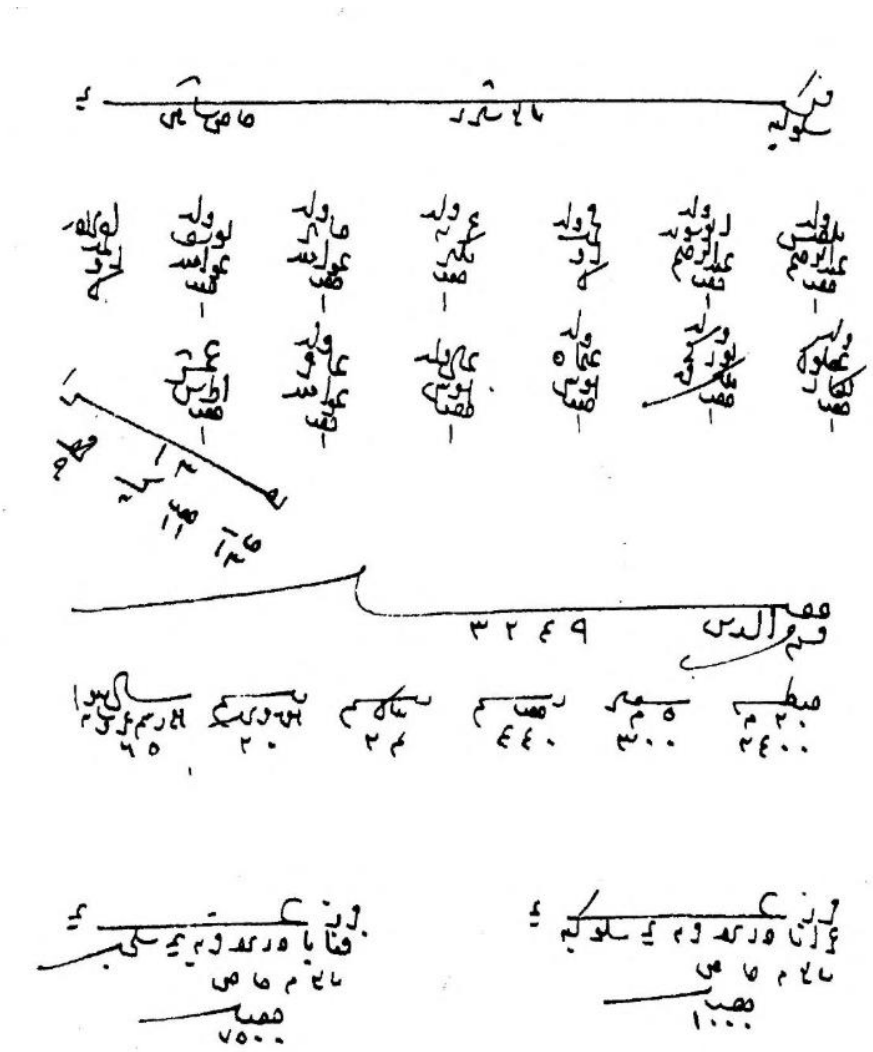
During the 6th century, Seleucia was the town of a municipium in the province of Syria II.



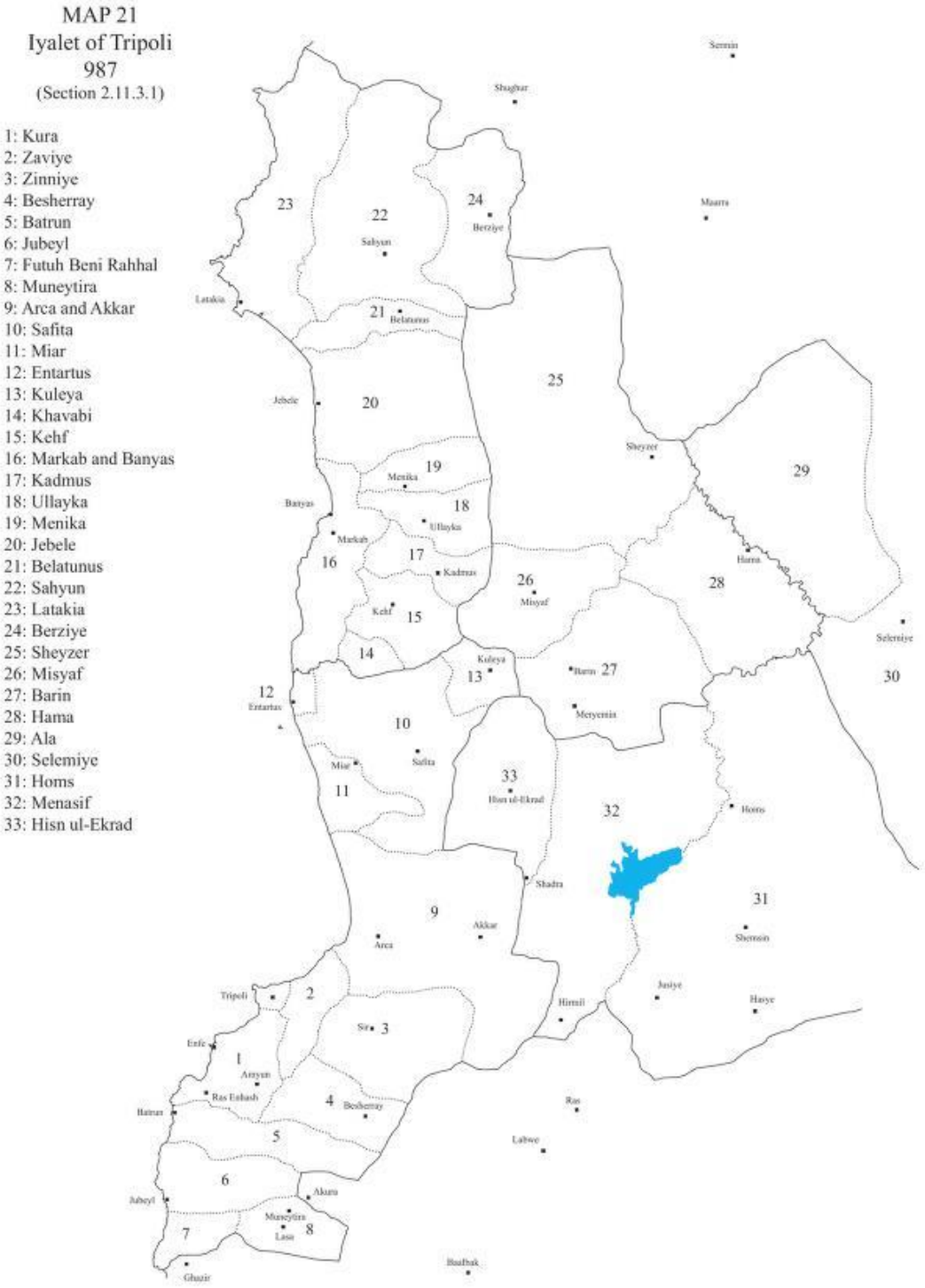
Hourani, Alexander, *Ethnic, political and administrative geography of the Biqā', Wādī al-Taym and 'Arqūb in the Greco-Roman period*, Map 13

After the Islamic conquest, Theophanes (*Chronography* 6156 AM, based on the Chronicle of Theophilus the Edessene) mentions it as Σελευκόβολος a village of the Apameans in 664 AD.

Its name appears in none of the existing Islamic writings until the Ottoman period where it is mentioned as a village in the nahiye of Shayzar in the liva of Hama in 970 H. 1563 AD (*Tapu Tahrir Defteri 344*, p. 70):



Tapu Tahrir Defteri 344, p. 70



Hourani, Alexander, *New Documents on the History of Mount Lebanon and Arabistan in the 10th and 11th Centuries H.*, Map 21